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I hereby certify that this paper and every paper referred to therein as being enclosed, is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231,

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Signature: Mary C. Werner

Printed name: MARY C. WERNER

5000 PCT#3

Application Of: Maes, et al.

Serial Number: 09/554984

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Filed: May 23, 2000

For: **Composition For Improving Skin Lipid Barrier Function**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant submits herewith references which he/she believes may be material to the examination of this application and with respect to which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56.

While the references may be "material" under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that the references are "prior art" unless specifically designated as such.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that no other material references than those listed exist or that a search has been conducted.

The references are listed in PTO form 1449 which is in accordance with the requirements of M.P.E.P. 609. A copy of the references is also enclosed. The references are as follows:

1. BONTE et al., WO 99/62481, 12/9/99
2. GUERET, EP 976396 A1, 2/2/00

3. DUMAS et al., WO 99/24009, 5/20/1999
4. MEYBECK et al., WO 95/25524, 9/28/95
5. SUBBIAH, WO 99/63978, 12/16/99

It is respectfully requested that these references be considered by the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of the above-identified application and be made of record therein. The Examiner is also invited to contact the undersigned if there are any questions concerning this paper or the attached references.

This IDS is being submitted before the first action on the merits. Therefore, no fee is believed due.

Respectfully submitted,

Estelle J. Tsevdos

Dated: 3/29/01

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